of FPI sector, Government in the year 2004-05 has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 1000% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. In order to increase export of processed food, financial assistance is provided to FPI units to adopt ISO, HACCP and GMP certification. State Governments have also been approached to carryout necessary amendment in the APMC Act. The amendment shall facilitate marketing of agri produce in a more efficient manner, as well as enable better sourcing by food processing industries.

Policy for construction of cold storages in rural areas

†1120. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the Government policy with regard to constructing cold storages in rural small towns;

(b) the details of Government's policy to encourage food processing industries in rural areas;

(c) Government's plocy for preservation of vegetable products as well as for the generation of income of small farmers in rural areas; and

(d) The fund allocated to Bihar for constructing small cold storags during this year and the amount utilized therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its Plan Schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant in aid for setting up as well as for expansion/modernization including increasing of capacity in respect of the following kinds of cold storages in all parts of the country including rural areas:

(i) Cold storage for non-horticulture produce;

(ii) Where the cold storate is an integral part of the processing unit or of the common facilities in food park;

(iii) Special type of cold storage with Controlled Atmosphere/Modified Atmosphere facility.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Ministry does not set up cold storages on its own. The assistance is @ 25% of cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in General aeras and 33.33% in Difficult areas subject to a common ceiling of Rs. 75 lakhs.

(c) With a view to encourage, among others, processing and preservation of vegetable products and resultant positive impact of income generation of small farmers, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under its plan schemes provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for Technology upgradation/establishment/modernization of food processing industries. Assistance is @ 25% of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General areas and 33.33% upto Rs. 75 lakhs in Difficult areas.

(d) The schemes of the Ministry are project specific and not state specific. Projects are considered for financial assistance based on viable and complete project proposals received duly recommended by the concerned State Nodal Agency. No project proposal for setting up of cold storage in Bihar has been received during the current financial year.

Use of colours in food items

1121. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Nutrition has found liberal use of a variety of colours in food items which are harmful for health;

(b) if so, the details of the findings; and

(c) the action taken to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Drug Control Authority

1122. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up an Autonomous Drug Control Authority of India and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the reasons, therefore and the specific functions proposed to be assigned thereto;